

**The Claims:**

1. (Original) A method for analyzing links between components of a computer system, comprising:  
receiving input associated with a level of abstraction;  
determining the level of abstraction based on the input;  
filtering network links for display based on the level of abstraction; and  
displaying the filtered network links to present a layered network diagram.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the input is a user identification.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the level of abstraction represents at least one protocol.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each displayed network link represents a layer of an industry standard stack.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the layer of the industry standard stack is selected from the group consisting of the layers of an Open System Interconnection (OSI) protocol stack.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each network link represents a protocol.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the protocol is selected from the group consisting of Internet Protocol (IP), Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein filtering includes identifying any network link that represents a relevant propagated failure regardless of the level of abstraction.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying includes displaying a three dimensional representation of the link.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for network analysis by presenting a layered network diagram on a visualization workstation, comprising:

storing in an object repository, at least one object representing a link between components of a network;

receiving a request to present the network topology represented by the at least one object in the object repository;

receiving input associated with a level of abstraction;

determining the level of abstraction based on the input;

filtering the at least one object based on the level of abstraction; and

displaying the at least one filtered ~~objects~~ object to present a layered network diagram.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the level of abstraction limits the presentation to at least one protocol.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the displayed objects represent a layer of an industry standard stack.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the layer of the industry standard stack is selected from the group consisting of the layers of an Open System Interconnection (OSI) protocol stack.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each displayed object represents a protocol.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the protocol is selected from the group consisting of Internet Protocol (IP), Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein filtering includes identifying any object that represents a relevant propagated failure regardless of the level of abstraction.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein displaying includes displaying a three dimensional representation of the at least one object.

18. (Original) An apparatus for analyzing links between components of a computer system, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to said processor storing a program to control the operation of said processor;

the processor operative with the program in the memory to:

receive input associated with a level of abstraction;

determine the level of abstraction based on the input;

filter network links for display based on the level of abstraction; and

display the filtered network links to present a layered network diagram.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for network analysis by presenting a layered network diagram on a visualization workstation, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to said processor storing a program to control the operation of said processor;

the processor operative with the program in the memory to:

store in an object repository, at least one object representing a link between components of a network;

receive a request to present the network topology represented by the at least one object in the object repository;

receive input associated with a level of abstraction;

determine the level of abstraction based on the input;

filter the at least one object based on the level of abstraction; and

display the at least one filtered ~~objects~~ object to present a layered network diagram.

20. (Original) An apparatus for analyzing links between components of a computer system, comprising:

- means for receiving input associated with a level of abstraction;
- means for determining the level of abstraction based on input;
- means for filtering network links for display based on the level of abstraction; and
- means for displaying the filtered network links to present a layered network diagram.

21. (Currently Amended) A apparatus for network analysis by presenting a layered network diagram on a visualization workstation, comprising:

- means for storing in an object repository, at least one object representing a link between components of a network;
- means for receiving a request to present the network topology represented by the at least one object in the object repository;
- means for receiving input associated with a level of abstraction;
- means for determining the level of abstraction based on the input;
- means for filtering the at least one object based on the level of abstraction; and
- means for displaying the at least one filtered ~~objects~~ object to present a layered network diagram.

22. (Original) A computer-readable storage minimum encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for analyzing links between components of a computer system, the processing instructions for directing a computer to perform the steps of:

- receiving input associated with a level of abstraction;
- determining a level of abstraction based on the input;
- filtering network links for display based on the level of abstraction; and
- displaying the filtered network links to present a layered network diagram.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for network analyzing by presenting a layered network diagram on a visualization workstation, the processing instructions for directing a computer to perform the steps of:

storing in an object repository, at least one object representing a link between components of a network;

receiving a request to present the network topology represented by the at least one object in the object repository;

receiving input associated with a level of abstraction;

determining the level of abstraction based on input;

filtering the at least one object based on the level of abstraction; and

displaying the at least one filtered ~~objects~~ object to present a layered network diagram.